

Supply sweeps Top Wheels competition

By 1st Lt. Kristie Cudd
8th Transportation Squadron

The Top Wheels Competition, hosted by the 8th Transportation Squadron, is back at the Wolf Pack. The purpose of the competition is to recognize personnel who take good care of their government owned vehicles, which subsequently helps extend the life expectancy of the vehicle. Twelve squadrons brought their randomly selected general purpose and special purpose vehicles to the transportation compound Sept. 28 to compete in the competition.

The Top Wheels competition consisted of a two-part competition. The first portion was a limited technical inspection accomplished by vehicle maintenance. The second was an inspection of overall operator care by guest judges Col. Burt Field, 8th Fighter Wing commander, Col. Thomas Ardern, 8th Fighter Wing vice commander, and Col. Michael Gardiner, 8th

Support Group commander.

The 8th Supply Squadron earned both the general purpose and special purpose awards with an outstanding display of operator care and unit pride. Congratulations to Senior Airmen Jason Herbkerman, 8th Supply Squadron fuels distribution operator, and Michael Loutzenhiser, 8th SUPS pick-up and delivery journeyman, on a job well done!

Top Wheels is hosted quarterly and the number of vehicles assigned to units will determine unit's frequency of participation in the program. The vehicle operations flight's fleet management section will contact participating unit's vehicle control officer and inform them of specifics pertaining to upcoming competitions. The vehicles identified to participate are inspected using the inspection criteria stated in Air Force Inspection 24-30 and Pacific Air Forces Supplement 1, Attachment 2. For more information, call 782-6014.



Photo by Staff Sgt. Robert Nichols

Airman 1st Class Mark Mancha, 8th Transportation Squadron vehicle operator, and Col. Burt Field, 8th Fighter Wing commander, go through the inspection process during the Top Wheels competition Sept. 28.

Air Force IDEA program a win-win situation

By Staff Sgt. Heather Shelton
8th Fighter Wing Public Affairs

"Earn cash for great ideas!"

Sound like an advertisement from the Internet? Well, it's not.

Active-duty and Department of Defense civilians can earn extra money by submitting ideas for improving the Air Force.

According to Staff Sgt. William Wagner, 8th Fighter Wing management and organization office Innovative Development through Employee Awareness program manager, the program can really pay off.

"For every approved idea, the submitter receives a cash award in the amount of \$200-\$10,000," said Wagner. "In addition to the monetary

award, you have also contributed to Air Force improvements."

Want proof?

Just talk to Staff Sgt. William Pittman, 8th Maintenance Squadron aerospace ground equipment mechanic, who recently earned \$7,225 for his suggestion.

"My idea was to apply spiral wrapping and a clamp to a cable assembly on a FL-1D floodlight, (a portable lighting and power source used around base)," said Pittman. "The cable assembly or wiring harness was rubbing against the generator housing

cover and shorting out generators."

This may sound like a complicated fix, but according to Pittman, an easy \$2.50 fix is going to save Kunsan more than \$48,000 in generator replacement costs alone and countless man-hours.

Already familiar with the IDEA program and with a little encouragement from his flight supervision, Pittman decided to contact the base management and organization office.

"I would definitely recommend this program to other airmen," said Pittman. "Not only can you save the



Air Force money, which in the long run benefits us all, and make some money for yourself in the process, but an approved idea makes for a great bullet statement on a performance report or decoration."

Pittman, a seven-year Air Force veteran, decided to share his earnings in a special way.

"I'm going to use the money to buy my girlfriend an engagement ring," said Pittman.

Military members are always encouraged to save money when possible. Now, they can actually make money doing it. For more information on the IDEA program, or to submit a money saving idea, call the management and organization office at 782-4020.

PECI program can provide a little workplace financial help

By Capt. Brian Cotton
8th Fighter Wing Manpower and Organization

Has your work center found a better way to do its job but no way to pay for the equipment to make it happen? Today's shrinking budgets and personnel drawdowns have made working smarter and eliminating inefficiencies more important than ever. The manpower and organization office may have a program to help you increase productivity – the Productivity Enhancing Capital Investment program.

The PEGI program provides money from outside the normal budgetary process to purchase equipment to increase the productivity of a workcenter or to reduce unit costs. The purchase can include money for transportation, installation and training, but cannot be used to purchase spare parts or repairs to existing equipment. This program provides an alternate source of funds to purchase equipment without reaching into scarce base funds. The investment must perform valid functions, operations or service existing contracts, equipment or facilities cannot achieve as economically or effectively. The program is designed for the user to identify savings in money or manpower that will repay the investment over time.

The PEGI program has two investment avenues: Fast Payback Capital Investment program and the Productivity Investment Fund program – which differ

primarily in the size of projects funded, and the time in which the projects achieve savings of the invested funds.

FASCAP provides money to buy off-the-shelf equipment available through government or commercial sources. A FASCAP project cannot exceed \$200,000 and should generate savings equivalent to the investment cost within two years from the date the project is operational.

Pacific Air Forces headquarters prioritizes and approves projects for funding. Traceable dollar or manpower savings such as reduced operating or maintenance costs, manpower savings, or civilian overtime cost reduction are required to qualify for PEGI funding. The PIF program will fund a project that costs more than \$200,000 and generate equivalent savings within four years. Priority for these projects is approved at the Air Force level.

Recent examples of successful projects funded within PACAF include:

- Elmendorf Air Force Base, Alaska, was funded \$128,000 for the purchase of a Glycol Deicing Fluid Distribution System for their aircraft deicing operation. The previous method of operation required premixing large amounts of glycol and water at a certain concentration to create the deicing solution. The new system automatically mixes the glycol and water at just the right concentration based on ambient temperature. Life

cycle savings in excess of \$1.6 million will be realized by reducing the amount of glycol required.

- Elmendorf Air Force Base, Alaska, received \$425,000 to purchase a Computed Radiography (digital imaging) System to replace the existing Non-Destructive Inspection X-ray technology. Dramatic reductions in the costs associated with buying film and development chemicals will save \$1.5 million throughout the life of the project.

- Kadena Air Base, Japan, was given \$265,000 to purchase a tub grinder that grinds wood debris into compost material. Life cycle savings will exceed \$2.4 million in reduced disposal costs and the creation of a substitute for topsoil.

- Eielson Air Force Base, Alaska, received \$114,000 to purchase a Morbark II powerscreen and M60 conveyor that provides the capability to shred and screen unprocessed topsoil and produce usable topsoil and sub-base materials such as sand, rocks and other sized aggregates in large volume. Savings of \$1.7 million will be realized by eliminating the requirement to purchase topsoil and the reduced need for sub-based materials.

Contact the 8th Fighter Wing PEGI analyst, Staff Sgt. William Wagner, at 782- 5535, or e-mail william.wagner@kunsan.af.mil if any of these initiatives might apply at your location or you are interested in seeing other PEGI initiatives across the Air Force.